



Is Scientology a Legitimate Religious Movement?

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Scientology is a complex and controversial religious movement that was founded in 1953 by American science fiction author L. Ron Hubbard. While Scientologists may claim their beliefs are compatible with Christianity, a thorough examination of Scientology's core teachings reveals that it is fundamentally at odds with the clear teachings of the Bible and biblical Christianity.

One of the most significant differences is Scientology's view of God and the nature of the divine. Scientology believes in the existence of multiple gods and spiritual entities, rather than the one true God revealed in the Scriptures. In contrast, the Bible unequivocally teaches that there is only one God, who is the sovereign Creator of the universe ([Genesis 1:1](#)). Scientology does not center around the Judeo-Christian God or the concept of the Holy Trinity, which is a foundational belief in historic Christianity.

Furthermore, Scientology denies the deity of Jesus Christ, regarding Him as simply a good teacher rather than the Son of God and the Savior of humanity. The Bible, however, affirms that Jesus is fully God and fully man, and that it is only through faith in Him that we can have eternal life ([John 3:16](#), [Philippians 2:5-11](#)). Scientology's rejection of the Bible and Christian scriptures in favor of the writings of L. Ron Hubbard further demonstrates its departure from Christian orthodoxy.

Scientology's teachings about the nature of man and the path to salvation also stand in stark contrast to biblical Christianity. Scientology believes that humans are inherently good and that salvation comes through a process called "*auditing*," whereby past traumas and "*engrams*" are removed. The Bible, on the other hand, teaches that all people are sinners in need of God's grace, and that salvation is a free gift received through faith in Jesus Christ alone, not through any human effort ([Romans 3:23](#), [Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). Scientology's concepts about the nature of the human soul ("thetan") and spiritual enlightenment are incompatible with the Christian understanding of the human condition and the means of redemption.

Additionally, Scientology's views on reincarnation and the cyclical nature of birth and death are incompatible with the Christian belief in a linear history leading to a final judgment and eternal life in heaven or hell ([Revelation 20:11-15](#)). Scientology's practices, such as auditing, are also distinct from traditional Christian sacraments and worship, further demonstrating its lack of alignment with Christian beliefs and practices.

In light of these significant theological differences, it is clear that Scientology cannot be considered a legitimate Christian denomination or a form of Christianity. Rather, it is more accurately characterized as a cult, as it departs from the core beliefs and teachings of biblical Christianity. The Bible warns against being "*carried away by all kinds of strange teachings*" ([Hebrews 13:9](#)) and encourages believers to "*test the spirits to see whether they are from God*" ([1 John 4:1](#)).

It is important to note that Scientology may attempt to cloak itself in the language of Christianity or claim to be a "Christian" organization in order to attract unsuspecting believers. However, Christians must be vigilant and discerning, recognizing that Scientology's beliefs and practices are fundamentally at odds with the clear teachings of Scripture. The apostle Paul's warning is especially relevant: "*But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!*" ([Galatians 1:8](#)).

Ultimately, the decision of whether Scientology is a legitimate Christian denomination or a dangerous cult comes down to a comparison of its beliefs and practices with the timeless truths of the Bible. While Scientology may appeal to some with its promise of personal empowerment and enlightenment, it leads people away from the truth of the gospel and the salvation found only in Jesus Christ. Christians must be on guard against such false teachings and remain steadfast in their commitment to the Word of God.

In conclusion, the overwhelming evidence demonstrates that Scientology is not a Christian religion, but rather a cult that has strayed far from the foundations of biblical Christianity. Christians must be diligent in their discernment, rejecting any belief system or organization that contradicts the clear teachings of Scripture, lest they be led astray by the deceptive allure of Scientology or any other ideology that claims to be Christian but is ultimately incompatible with the true faith.

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